

State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council

Minutes for First Quarter Meeting

September 26, 2013

Capitol Building: Legislative Dining Hall

9:00am – 4:00 pm - All Members – Statewide

Members Present: Sai Abbaraju, Joel Baumann, Aaron Britt, Jacob Bundt, Anne Edwards, Agatha Fenech, Pablo Haake, Rekha Karuparth, Marissa Kephart, Mary Korch, Jake Mathahs, Jenna McCoy, Katie Melbourne, Gina Mostafa, Sruthi Palaniappan, Zachary Parle, Danielle Reyes, Luke Theuma, Benjamin Votroubek, and Cody Woodruff

Members Absent: Rohan Aggarwal and Nick Beckwith

Staff Present: Steve Michael and Betsy Penisten

I. Welcome to SIYAC

San Wong gave a welcome speech/introduction to the first quarter meeting.

II. Roll Call and Announcements

Karuparth took roll call. A couple of opportunities coming up include the Walk the Talk and the Bullying Summit. Haake talked about the Reimbursement forms.

III. Approve Minutes from 9/22/13

Theuma motioned to approve the minutes. Bundt seconded.

The council unanimously agreed to approve the minutes.

IV. Ice Breaker

The council got to know each other through two icebreakers.

V. Progress and Updates

Members updated the council on their progress.

Palaniappan and Britt talked about the Reach Out and Read program. It is a program targeting children 5 and under to encourage reading and to emphasize the importance of reading at a young age. Organizing book drives, volunteering to read to kids, or making pamphlets could be a way to get started. More information will be at the 2nd quarterly meeting (Molly).

Korch, Woodruff, and Votobek are working to raise awareness about the influence from drugs and alcohol through personal stories. They plan to create a PSA Drug and Alcohol video to affect youth around Iowa.

Mathahs is organizing a 5K run to raise money for the Wheelchair Foundation. A race is scheduled to be on Saturday September 28, 2013.

VI. Review Robert's Rules

Haake reviewed Robert's Rules with the council. Haake and Theuma used phrases of Robert's Rules in various scenarios.

VII. Introduce Guest

Julie Hibben from the Iowa Department of Public Health deals with Drug and Alcohol prevention. DPH funds treatment programs, grants (Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant), and campaigns. One media project DPH launched created posters to raise awareness about the dangers of binge drinking/underage drinking. The council discussed ways DPH can help SIYAC, specifically towards the PSA video.

VIII. Discussion of Issues/Projects

Bullying: Abbaraju talked about issues regarding bullying. He explained the IYC cyber-bullying bill. Woodruff proposed defining cyberdrama and cyberbullying into legislation.

Sun and Indoor Tanning Safety: Melbourne talked about raising awareness about health issues that arise from UV indoor tanning and passing laws to restrict the age to only 18 year olds and up could also help promote this.

Theuma motioned to postpone discussion till after lunch. Reyes seconded.

Luke motioned to go to lunch till 12:15 PM. Abbaraju seconded.

Teen Alcohol Abuse- Woodruff would like to point out how alcohol abuse affects the future.

School/community Nutrition: Mostafa believes youth should be educated about the effects of fast food. Her goal is to integrate nutrition education into school's curriculum.

Legislative Education: Woodruff would like to educate youth about the legislative process by organizing a conference in Des Moines. At the conference, youth will have the opportunity to talk with legislators.

Standardized Tests: Palaniappan and Korch are creating a bill that would mandate social studies and writing on standardized tests.

Suicide Teacher Training: Abbaraju presented a bill to require teachers to be trained to learn suicidal signs.

Suggestion Boxes: Edwards plans to put suggestion boxes in schools to get students' suggestions/thoughts on issues.

Public University Tuition: Kephart would like to make scholarships more available in order to fund students who cannot afford an education.

IX. Appoint Officers

Legislative Affairs Chair for this upcoming year will be Jake Mathahs. Luke motioned to approve Mathahs as Legislative Chair. Mostafa seconded. The council unanimously approved to appoint Mathas as Legislative Affairs Chair.

Service Chair for this upcoming year will be Mary Korch. Luke motioned to approve Korch as Service Chair. Palaniappan seconded. The council unanimously approved to appoint Korch as Service Chair.

Public Relations Chair for this upcoming year is Agatha Fenech. Luke motioned to approve Fenech as Public Relations Chair. Korch seconded. The council unanimously approved to appoint Fenech as Public Relations Chair.

X. Discussion of Potential Committees

The council discussed what SIYAC would like focus on for the year.

XI. Select and Vote on Committees

Education, Health/Wellness, Mental Health/Harassment are the three committees for SIYAC.

Education: Theuma motioned to approve committee. Palaniappan seconded. The council unanimously agreed to create an Education committee.

Health/Wellness: Kephard motioned to approve committee. Mathahs seconded. The council unanimously agreed to create a Health/Wellness committee.

Mental Health/Harassment: Bundt motioned to approve committee. Melbourne seconded. The council unanimously agreed to create a Mental Health/Harassment committee.

XII. Assign Committee Members

Each member chose a committee to participate in.

XIII. Appoint Committee Chairs

The chairs are Mostafa for Health/Wellness committee, Abbaraju for Mental Health/Harassment committee, and Palaniappan for Education committee.

XIV. Introduce Guest

Team Nutrition met and talked with the Health/Wellness committee.

XV. Committee Planning Time

Each committee devised a plan for the year including goals and individual steps to accomplish goals.

XVI. Share Committee Plans

Each chair shared a plan for this upcoming year followed by a question answer session regarding bills, positions statements, and policies.

XVII. Presentation of SIYAC Member Certificates

All first year members received a certificate.

XVIII. Adjourn

Theuma motioned to adjourn. Abbaraju seconded. The council unanimously agreed to adjourn.